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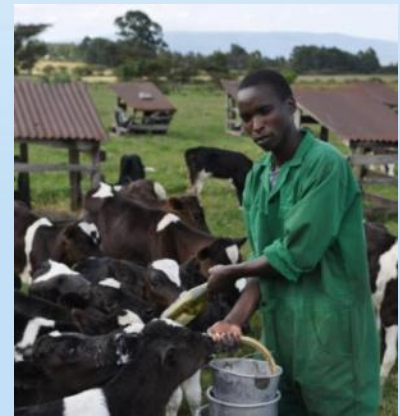
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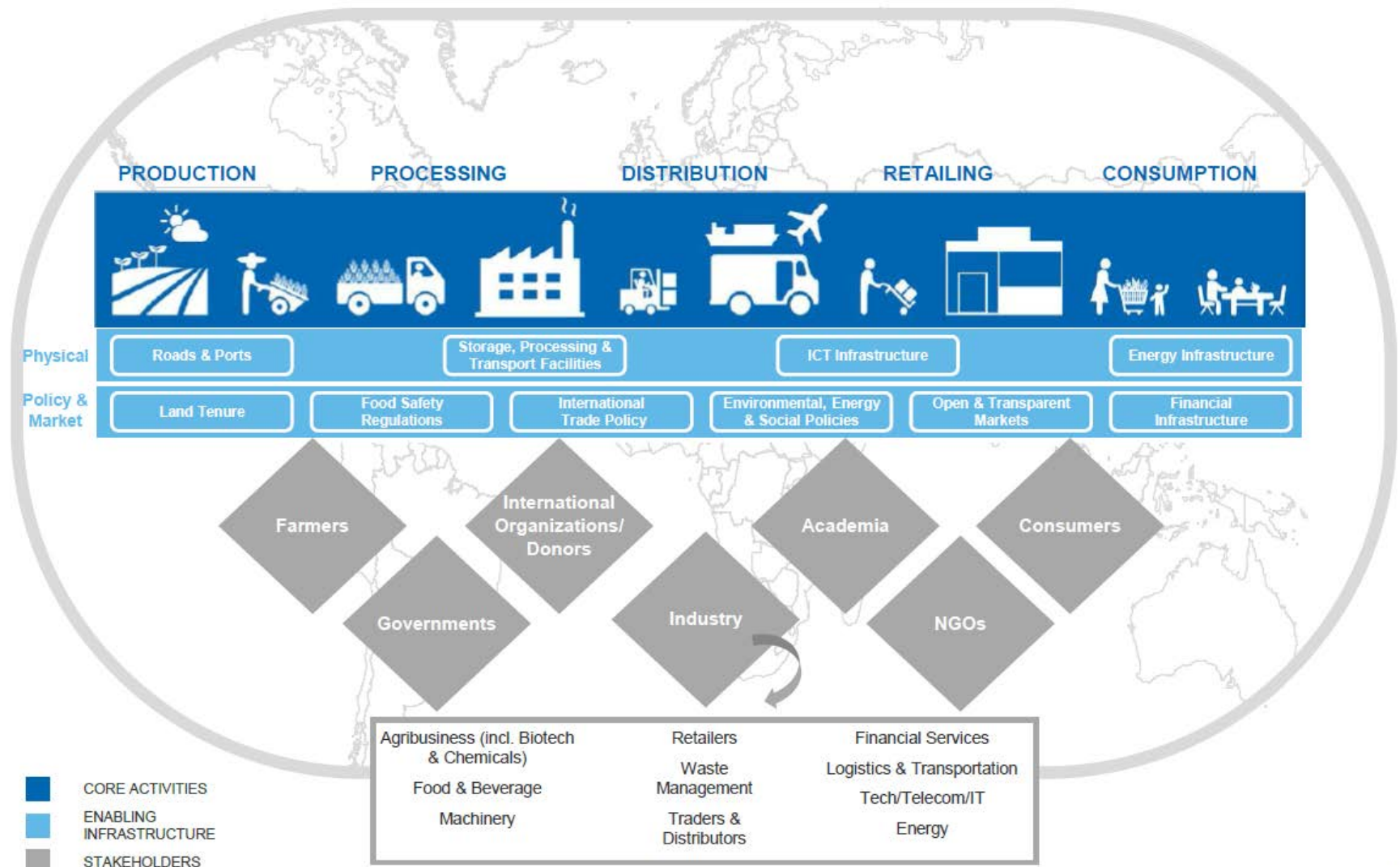


Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth in Agriculture

A Canadian Perspective



The food system is complex, presenting unique challenges and opportunities for women and youth empowerment



Women in Agriculture and Food Systems

- Canada recognizes the essential roles women play in agri-food systems
- However, there are many structural disadvantages:
 - Ownership of agricultural land
 - Gender gaps in human capital
 - Access to financial services
 - Equitable technology transfer
 - Political voice and influence
- Impacts on agricultural output, income, and nutrition
- Disadvantages can be addressed by
 - advocating for equal rights and access to resources
 - supporting favourable enabling environments
 - generating gender-sensitive economic opportunities



Canadian statistics

The number of women farm operators declined between 2006 and 2011, but the share of all farm operators remained the same

Number of farm operators by sex, Canada, every five years

	All farm operators	Women (number)	Women (%)	Men (number)	Men (%)
2006	327,060	90,840	28%	236,220	72%
2011	293,925	80,665	27%	213,265	73%
2006-2011 change	-33,135	-10,175	31%	-22,955	69%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture

Number of farm operators classified by gender and age, Canada, 2011

	Women farm operators	Men farm operators	Total farm operators
Under 35 years of age	8%	8%	8%
35 - 64 years of age	74%	69%	70%
65 years of age and over	18%	23%	22%
All operators	80,600	212,185	292,795

Source: Ag-NHS linkage database, 2011, Census of Agriculture, Statistics Canada

Note: A Census farm refers to a farm, ranch or other agricultural operation that produces agricultural products intended for sale; A Census farm operator refers to those persons responsible for the management decisions made in the operation of the census farm; Starting in 1991, the Census of Agriculture questionnaire allows information to be collected for up to three operators per farm.

Canadian statistics

Most women farm operators were on farms jointly operated by operators of both sexes



Farmland area and farm operating arrangement by gender farm profile, Canada, 2011				
	Women only	Men only	Both sexes	All Census farms
Farm land area				
Land area (millions of acres)	3.4	110.5	46.2	160.2
Share of land area (%)	2.1	69.0	28.9	100.0
Farm operating arrangement				
Farm operating arrangements – All farms (#)	11,475	126,317	67,938	205,730
Sole proprietorship (%)	78.7%	67.1%	29.8%	55.4%
Partnership with a written agreement (%)	7.9%	9.8%	38.8%	19.3%
Partnership without a written agreement (%)	1.8%	3.0%	9.7%	5.2%
Family corporation (%)	9.2%	16.7%	20.1%	17.4%
Non-family corporation (%)	2.1%	2.9%	1.6%	2.4%
Other operating arrangements (%)	0.2%	0.5%	0.1%	0.3%
Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Agriculture.				

Note: A Census farm refers to a farm, ranch or other agricultural operation that produces agricultural products intended for sale; A Census farm operator refers to those persons responsible for the management decisions made in the operation of the census farm; The Census of Agriculture questionnaire allows information to be collected

Considerations

- Discriminatory social and cultural attitudes remain
- Structural constraints limiting women's empowerment are persistent

But

- Women are diverse and experience these constraints differently
- There are ethnic, socio-economic and generational variations in the regions



Canada's approach

Gender equality is central to Canada's international assistance

Maintain the Focus	Maintain explicit targets/objectives
	Have gender considerations central in policy dialogue
Address underlying issues	Build human capital (capacity building, access to information)
	Expand asset base (inputs, tools, finance)
	Build social capital (facilitate organisation)
Use the whole system	Explore opportunities across the full value chain
	Involve women in research and innovation
	Support multi-stakeholder partnerships



Investing in Women's Empowerment in Agriculture

- Generates diverse positive outcomes, from nutrition to political engagement
- Yields more sustainable results
- Laos: **\$405 US/household** provides education on land tenure rights and processes for women to gain legal access to land
- Bangladesh: **\$300 US/household** generates long-term production of diversified vegetable, fruit and poultry for women and their families



What About Youth?

Canada recognizes the specific global challenges and opportunities presented by:

- High youth unemployment rates
- A demographic “youth bulge”
- 85% of the world’s youth live in developing countries

Rural youth are the future of food security if we can engage them in agriculture



Youth in Agriculture and Food Systems



Youth face some similar constraints to women:

- Insufficient access to knowledge, information and education
- Limited access to land
- Inadequate access to financial services
- Limited involvement in policy dialogue

Canada's approach

- Promote inclusive agribusiness, including through skills for employment
- Improve farmers' abilities to access markets (especially women and youth) and add value to agricultural products
- Canada's International Assistance Review noted the potential for increased focus on youth



Canada's support for young farmers

- Federal programs and measures that support young farmers
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada funds a number of activities for young farmers



Investment in Youth...some international examples

- **\$550/person** can help a young farmer in Nicaragua receive training to increase their farm-derived income **by 50%**
- **\$165/person** has provided start-up funds, mentorship and other supports in agricultural value chains, to rural adolescents, building incomes



Conclusion

Canada recognizes the empowerment of women and youth must be central to its efforts to achieve a range of positive impacts from agriculture and food security programming including:

- Improving nutrition
- Enhancing sustainability and resilience
- Broadening the impact on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals





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Thank you - Merci



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